

IN THE CLAIMS :

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended): A network device management apparatus which ~~manages communicates with~~ a network device ~~that is~~ connected to a network, where the network device has a ~~plurality of~~ print data generating ~~functions function~~ and does not support any network-compatible Plug and Play function, said apparatus comprising:

~~recognition means for recognizing that the network device does not support a network-compatible Plug and Play function;~~

generating means for generating a ~~plurality of~~ device ~~IDs~~ ID corresponding to the ~~plurality of~~ print data generating ~~functions function~~, where ~~each~~ the device ID includes at least information identifying the model, information indicating the manufacturer and information indicating ~~one of the~~ ~~plurality of~~ print data generating ~~functions function~~ of the ~~recognized~~ network device,

so that, in accordance with the network-compatible ~~supporting~~ Plug and Play function, a client apparatus on the network can install a ~~plurality of~~ device ~~drivers~~ driver for controlling the ~~plurality of~~ print data generating ~~functions function~~ of the network device ~~recognized by said recognition means, and;~~

~~response sending~~ means for ~~responding sending~~ to the client apparatus ~~using the~~ ~~plurality of~~ device ~~IDs~~ ID generated by said generating means;

request means for submitting a get request for device information to the network device specified by the device ID sent by said sending means; and

notification means for notifying the client apparatus that a service of the network device has stopped if said network device management apparatus does not receive a response to the get request from the network device.

13. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising storage means for storing protocol information required to communicate with a network device.

14. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising control means for, when job information addressed to a virtual representation of the network device ~~that as a device which~~ supports the network-compatible Plug and Play function is received, acquiring an address and protocol information of the ~~corresponding~~ network device from said storage means, converting the job information into the acquired protocol, and transmitting the converted information to the acquired address.

15. (canceled).

16. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

search means for searching for a network device which does not support ~~any~~ ~~the~~ network-compatible Plug and Play function; and

registration means for registering in said storage means a network address of the network device found by said search means, and information ~~for specifying a protocol one or more protocols, including at least Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP),~~ used in a communication with the network device found by said search means.

17. (canceled).

18. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the network device is a network printer.

19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended): A method of controlling a network device management apparatus which ~~manages communicates with~~ a network device ~~that is~~ connected to a network, where the network device has a ~~plurality of~~ print data generating ~~functions function~~ and does not support any network-compatible Plug and Play function, said method comprising the steps of:

~~recognizing that the network device does not support a network-compatible Plug and Play function;~~

generating a ~~plurality of~~ device ~~IDs~~ ID corresponding to the ~~plurality of~~ print data generating ~~functions function~~, where ~~each~~ the device ID includes at least information identifying the model, information indicating the manufacturer and information indicating ~~one of the~~ ~~plurality of~~ print data generating ~~functions function~~ of the ~~recognized~~ network device,

so that, in accordance with the network-compatible ~~supporting~~ Plug and Play function, a client apparatus on the network can install a ~~plurality of device drivers~~ driver for controlling the ~~plurality of~~ print data generating ~~functions~~ function of the network device; and ~~responding~~ sending to the client apparatus ~~using~~ the ~~plurality of device IDs~~ ID generated in said generating step;

submitting a get request for device information to the network device specified by the device ID sent in said sending step; and

notifying the client apparatus that a service of the network device has stopped if the network device management apparatus does not receive a response to the get request from the network device.

21. (currently amended): A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium, storing, in executable form, a program for causing a computer to serve as a network device management apparatus which ~~manages~~ communicates with a network device ~~that is connected to~~ a network, where the network device has a ~~plurality of~~ print data generating ~~functions~~ function and does not support any network-compatible Plug and Play function, said program comprising code for performing the steps of:

~~recognizing that the network device does not support any network compatible Plug and Play function;~~

~~generating a ~~plurality of~~ device IDs~~ ID corresponding to the ~~plurality of~~ print data generating ~~functions~~ function, where ~~each~~ the device ID includes at least information identifying the model, information indicating the manufacturer and information indicating ~~one of the~~ plurality of print data generating ~~functions~~ function of the ~~recognized~~ network device,

so that, in accordance with the network-compatible supporting Plug and Play function, a client apparatus on the network can install a plurality of device drivers driver for controlling the plurality of print data generating functions function of the network device; and responding sending to the client apparatus using the plurality of device IDs ID generated in said generating step;

submitting a get request for device information to the network device specified by the device ID sent in said sending step; and

notifying the client apparatus that a service of the network device has stopped if said network device management apparatus does not receive a response to the get request from the network device.

22. (canceled).

23. (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of storing protocol information required to communicate with a network device.

24. (currently amended): The method according to claim 20 23, further comprising a control step of, when job information addressed to a virtual representation of the network device as a device which supports the network-compatible Plug and Play function is received, acquiring an address and protocol information of the corresponding network device stored in said storing step, converting the job information into the acquired protocol, and transmitting the converted information to the acquired address.

25. (canceled).

26. (currently amended): The method according to claim 23, further comprising:
a search step of searching for a network device which does not support ~~any~~~~the~~
network-compatible Plug and Play function; and
a registration step of registering in storage means a network address of a network
device found in said search step, and information for specifying ~~a protocol~~~~one or more~~
~~protocols, including at least Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP),~~ used in a
communication with the network device found in said search step.

27. (canceled).

28. (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein the
network device is a network printer.

29. – 34. (canceled).